

WCCHS

Mobile Device Draft Policy

Preamble

Alberta's Education Act requires the school board, and as designated by board policy each school, to develop a code of conduct that contributes to a safe, caring, welcoming and productive learning environment. Section 31 of the Education Act outlines that students have a responsibility to attend school regularly and be ready to learn and actively engage in and diligently pursue their education.

Emerging research about the effects mobile devices have on learning point to a clear connection between mobile device use and increases in anxiety, bullying, distraction, missed instruction, and a distinct decrease in academic achievement. In light of this research, WCCHS believes that limiting the use of mobile devices will contribute to a more safe and productive learning environment.

Definitions

Class Time - any time during the day when a student is scheduled to be in a classroom.

Instructional Time - Class time designated by the classroom teacher as time when lesson material is being presented, discussed or assessed. This may include student group work or seat work as determined by the teacher.

Educational Purpose - Any activity deemed appropriate by the classroom teacher as supporting student learning. This may include individuals listening to a preset playlist of music when deemed acceptable by the classroom teacher, using a device for assessment purposes (Kahoot etc.) or using a device for research as directed by the classroom teacher.

Mobile Device - any piece of portable electronic equipment including cell phones, smart watches, ipods, personal laptop computers, tablets etc.

Policy

Junior High Students (Gr. 7-9)

Junior high students are expected to keep their cell phones in their lockers during class time. Junior high students found using mobile devices inside or outside of the classroom during class time will immediately become subject to the responses for misuse.

Junior high teachers may permit students to use their mobile devices for educational purposes during non-instructional times with a specific invitation to do so.

Junior high students who require the use of a mobile device outside of these expectations as per their school developed and approved individual student plan for medical or other purposes can use their mobile devices as designated in this plan.

Senior High Students (Gr. 10-12)

Senior high students are expected to keep their cell phone off and out of sight during class time. Senior high students found using mobile devices inside or outside of the classroom during class time will become subject to the responses for misuse.

Senior high teachers may permit students to use their mobile devices for educational purposes during non-instructional times with a specific invitation to do so.

Senior high students who require the use of a mobile device outside of these expectations as per their school developed and approved individual student plan for medical or other purposes can use their mobile devices as designated in this plan.

Contacting Students

Should parents or guardians, or others need to contact a student in an emergency, a call to the office can be made and students can be removed from class to communicate as needed.

Responses to Misuse

First offense - phone confiscated and given to the office. The student can pick up the phone at the end of the day. (3:30 Monday - Thursday, 1:20 Fridays).

Second offense - phone confiscated and given to the office. The office will contact a parent to notify. The student can pick up the phone at the end of the day. (3:30 Monday - Thursday, 1:20 Fridays).

Third offense - phone confiscated and given to the office. The office will contact a parent and the student will need a parent to pick up the phone after the end of the day. (3:30 Monday - Thursday, 1:20 Fridays).

Fourth offense - phone confiscated and given to the office. The office will contact a parent and the student, parent and school administration will meet to create a personal plan to assist the student in building better skills with mobile device management.

Students who have their phones confiscated before lunch may be able to check their phones at lunch time as needed with phones remaining in the office.

Students refusing to surrender the phone after a reasonable effort is made by staff are failing to comply with Section 31(g) of the Education Act which states students have a responsibility to cooperate with everyone authorized by the board to provide education programs and other services. A refusal will be dealt with as a serious breach of the code of conduct and will result in a one day in-school suspension. Students are not allowed phones during an in-school suspension. Repeated refusals, or a belligerent or profane refusal may lead to an out of school suspension.